opportunities on Current Daily Status are likely to be created during the Eleventh Plan period. Besides, Government of India is implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in both rural and urban areas to increase employment opportunities. Some of the important ones are—Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY); Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP); Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005.

Steps have been initiated to identify and implement systematic reforms in administration of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) so as to facilitate closer interaction with the industry in order to improve quality of training, make the graduates better employable and help them earn decent wages.

Effect of low wages to labourers on agricultural production

2603. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to assess the extent of poverty and hunger being suffered by millions of agricultural labourers due to low wages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the wages paid to the agricultural labourers at present in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the prevalent practice of low wages in this sector is affecting agricultural production; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) According to the reply received from the Planning Commission, while no separate survey has been condcuted for agricultural labourers, on the basis of information available for the country as a whole in the quinquennial survey Report of National Sample Survey Organisation 61st Round of "Household Consumer Expenditure among Socio-Economic Groups 2004-05", it has been estimated that 46.1 percentage of persons for agricultural labourer households in rural areas lie below the poverty line. Further, from the Report "Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in Indian Households 2004-05" of NSS 61st Round, it is estimated that 5.8 percentages of persons of agricultural labourer households was not getting enough food.

(c) A Statement giving the latest Rates of Minimum Wages to Agricultural labourer (Unskilled) State-wise, is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The agricultural production depends upon many factors, other than wages, i.e., supply of inputs such as fertilizer, seeds and pesticides/insecticides, mechanization, credit flow, irrigation and rain fall and weather situation etc. There is little scope for increasing area under cultivation. The higher aggregate output levels in agriculture production would be possible on account of achieving higher crop yields per hectare. So the thrust of the Government for increasing agriculture production is through more efficient use of inputs by way of implementation of various crop production programmes being undertaken by the Central and State Governments.

Statement

Rates of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers fixed by different States/Union Territory administrations under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

Sl.No.	Appropriate Governments	Minimum Wages for Unskilled Agricultural Workers (in rupees per day)
1	2	3
Central Sphere		117.65-131.22
States/Union Territories		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55.00
3.	Assam	76.35
4.	Bihar	66.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	69.00
6.	Goa	110.00
7.	Gujarat	50.00
8.	Haryana	135.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	75.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	66.00
11.	Jharkhand	50.06
12.	Karnataka	71.28
13.	Kerala	72.00 for light work 125.00 for hard work
14.	Madhya Pradesh	61.37
15.	Maharashtra	Zone-I 72.00 Zone-II 70.00 Zone-III 68.00 Zone-IV 66.00
16.	Manipur	72.40
17.	Meghalaya	70.00
18.	Mizoram	103.00
19.	Nagaland	66.00
20.	Orissa	70.00
21.	Punjab	100.70 (Without meal) 91.00 (With meal)
22.	Rajasthan	73.00

1	2	3
23.	Tamil Nadu	70.00
24.	Tripura	85.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	100.00
26	Uttarakhand	73.00
27.	West Bengal	71.13 (with meal)
		74.33 (without meal)
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	130.00 (Andaman)
		139.00 (Nicobar)
29.	Chandigarh	133.46
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	99.80
31.	Delhi	140.00
32.	Puducherry	
	Puducherry/Karaikal	54.00 (for 5 hours)
	Yanam	55.00 (for 6 hours)

Residential schools for rescued child labourers

†2604. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated any scheme to open residential schools for rescued child labourers;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) the State-wise details of residential schools to be opened in the first phase of the scheme; and

(d) by when this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) While there is no proposal to formulate any new scheme to open residential schools for all rescued child labourers, the Government has proposed for setting up of residential schools for the migrant child labour in Metros and far flung areas not having special schools under the existing National Child Labour Project Scheme during the Eleventh plan subject to necessary approvals.

Amendment to Maternity Benefit Act, 1961

2605. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961;

(b) if so, the essential features of the proposed amendments; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi